

"Love Buzz: A True Love Story"  
Book One Of Six: "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face..."  
Written And Illustrated By Leonard Norman Wallace

PAGE 1:  
INT. SUBWAY STATION – NIGHT

1 - Tight Shot: A hand holds a ring between its thumb and forefinger, moving it around as though observing it. We get the feeling that we are looking at the ring through the holder's point of view.

NORM (NARRATION)  
"All women are evil, and all men are idiots",  
a mental rant by Norman Mathew Raymer...

2 - We see the holder's face, he's in his very early twenties, his face is covered by a beard and long hair, he wears sunglasses and looks pretty haggard and depressed. He stares down at the ring, as though it is mocking him.

NORM (NARRATION)  
1 - I've seen so many people get stuck in these weird, masochistic relationships. Friends of mine, and I'm not talking "masochistic" in the really kinky, rough sex sense.  
2 - Emotional masochism. Example: The types of relationships that end very badly, and both involved come out hating each other.  
3 - Somewhere, a curve ball is thrown into the mix, and somehow, in some odd way, they find themselves back with the person they swore a blue streak they wouldn't date again.  
4 - This time, the relationship lasts a little longer, and you fall a little harder for them, then something else mucks it up, and you find yourself on your ass, wondering what the hell just happened.  
5 - You swear off the opposite sex all together for a little while, and once again, another "Praise Jesus" miracle happens, and you're back with the one you swore against.  
6 -Imagine that...

PAGE 2

1 - The train stops, and the boy steps out of the train, into the station.

NORM (NARRATION)  
You find yourself stuck in this vicious cycle. Get with girl, things go shit, find new girl, things go shit, get back with first girl, things go shit again, and so forth and so on. Whenever one of you is on the rebound, the other one picks up the ball. It's a vicious

cycle.

2 - He stops, and looks at the ring again...

3 - ...then at the train...

4 - Norm screams and throws the ring at the moving train as hard as he can.

NORM (NARRATION)

You try to break the cycle...

5 - The ring deflects off the moving train...

6 - ...and flies back at Norm, knocking him hard in the forehead.

NORM

(Shouts)

FUCK!

7 - Norm pulls himself together, and picks up the ring off the ground. He rubs the red mark on his forehead.

NORM (NARRATION)

And the cycle twists your arm...

8 - Norm begins to walk away.

NORM (NARRATION)

I wonder how Maggie's doing.

PAGE 3

INT. MAGGIE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

1 - Maggie Gunther, about the same age, sits in her college dorm room, watching television with her roommates, and chain smoking in her pajamas. She's cute, not you're textbook romantic comedy genre heroine kind of cute, (skinny as a rail, big vacant looking eyes, breasts the size of a grown man's head, etc.) but an attractiveness all her own.

2 - Suddenly the telephone rings, Harley picks it up

HARLEY

(Into phone)

Hello?... Maggie? Oh yeah, she's here, hang on a sec, 'kay?

3 - Harley offers the phone to Maggie.

HARLEY

(To Maggie)

It's for you, Mags...

4- Maggie on the phone.

MAGGIE

(Into phone)  
Hello?

NORM  
(On the other line)  
"Mags", I like that, it's cute.

MAGGIE  
This might sound stupid, the voice sounds  
familiar, but can I ask  
who this is?

NORM  
Ummm... It's Norm...

4 - Maggie's face sours like milk

MAGGIE  
(Stern and angry tone)  
I hope you're last name is Macdonald,  
otherwise, I'm not laughing.

NORM  
I know I might be off base here, but I've been  
thinking about you lately...

MAGGIE  
Have you, now?

5 - Maggie rolls her eyes, not believing what she's hearing.

NORM  
Yeah, and I decided to make one of the most  
bonehead moves in history, by calling you, and  
seeing if we could try to work out our past so  
that we could be friends.

6 - Maggie stays silent.

NORM  
\*sigh\*

7 - Profile view of Maggie on the left side of her head, she's more than a  
little irritated.

MAGGIE  
Just friends... Nothing more, right? Because the  
last I heard, you were  
engaged.

NORM  
Look, I'm gonna hang up now, okay? I see I  
made a mistake in this. I apologize, I hope  
you're doing well, and all that...

MAGGIE  
Might be a capital idea.

8 – Maggie is fed up.

NORM  
(Sighs)  
Bye...

MAGGIE  
(Venomous)  
Yeah, bye...

9 - Maggie slams the phone onto the hook, and groans.

MAGGIE (NARRATION)  
Not gonna let it happen again...

PAGE 4

Four small panels going across the top third of the page, and the fifth panel takes up the rest.

1 – Maggie looks unnerved, as her roommates look over to her.

2 – Amanda.

AMANDA  
What was that all about?

3 – Maggie.

MAGGIE  
An ex, engaged to be married no less, with the audacity to want another shot.

4 – Harley.

HARLEY  
Did he say that? What an asshole!

5 - Maggie lighting a cigarette, and taking a puff.

MAGGIE (NARRATION)  
1 - Norm Raymer calling me all the way from college two states away, "just to chat".  
2 - Riiiiiight, and I'm comfortable wearing heels. She dumped him, or vice versa, and he wants another shot. After three failed attempts, he should have grown the common sense that "we" do not work together.  
3 - We had lots of fun, we get along great when we're not at each others throats. I

can't deal with it again, it's either I hurt him, or he hurts me. So far, I've got him beat two to one. Not something I'm proud of,

but dammit. Things just go wrong. Sometimes people just aren't meant to be together, no matter how much they wanna be.

6 - Maggie looks up at Amanda and Harley.

MAGGIE  
(Pauses)  
I'll be in my room.

PAGE 5

INT. MAGGIE'S DORM > MAGGIE'S ROOM - DAY

1 - Maggie enters.

2 - She walks over to the phone, looking at the caller ID.

3 - She finds Norm's number.

4 - She pauses for a beat, looking unnerved.

5 - Deep breath, receiver in hand, as she dials the number.

6 - She places it at her ear as it begins to ring.

PAGE 6

INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY – DAY

Four long panels going across the page.

1 – Full black panel with the title “The First Time...” written in white.

CAPTION  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001.

2 - Flashback to a younger Norm and Maggie sit at a table across from one another, both looking kind of nervous as they study from their textbooks together.

MAGGIE  
(Looking into the book)  
So, you wanna quiz me? I know it's kinda geeky, but it's the way I'm used to memorizing this kind of stuff...

NORM

Oh, sure...

3 - Maggie shuts her book and smiles at Norm, as he looks for a question for her.

NORM

(Reading from text)

Okay... Lemme find something... How abooooout... How many bones are in the human skeleton?

MAGGIE

(Thinking)

Ummm... I think it's two hundred and thirty-five.

NORM

(Chuckles)

Two seventy-five, but you were close.

4 - Maggie groans. She puts her hands to her head, and massages her temples.

MAGGIE

Dammit, I am never going to get this... My fucking brain is full!

NORM

You wanna take a break?

MAGGIE

Yeah, I need a Coke... You want me to go get you something? It's on me!

PAGE 7

INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY > LOBBY - NIGHT

1 - Norm and Maggie walking down the lobby hall.

2 - Norm and Maggie approach the vending machines, as she fumbles in her pockets for change.

MAGGIE

So, are you on the list to head out on the senior field trip tomorrow?

NORM

Yeah, but just barely, since I'm passing this class by the skin of my teeth.

3 - Maggie begins pumping quarters into the machine as she talks.

MAGGIE

Who knows, maybe we'll wind up hanging out on the trip.

4 - Norm pauses for a beat, and looks at Maggie as she fetches the drinks.

5 - She turns to him, offering his drink. Their eyes meet, and all is quiet.

6 - Norm and Maggie look at one another like a couple of animals, sizing each other up for the big kill.

PAGE 8

Splash Page: Norm and Maggie make a running tackle at each other, followed by heavy, passionate kissing, and a bit of groping. They fall back against the soda machine and start getting wilder.

PAGE 9

1 - Back to Norm is watching Maggie as she pounds coins into the machine.

CAPTION  
Meanwhile, back in reality...

2 - Maggie turns to Norm, flashing a smile.

MAGGIE  
So, what can I get you?

PAGE 10

INT. TRANSIT BUS - NIGHT

The book credits will go on through each panel of this page.

1 - Norm and Maggie sit on a public transit bus, in the seat in the very back that night, on their way home. They're pretty much silent, but they look happy.

2 - Maggie closes her eyes and lays her head on Norm's shoulder.

3 - Tight shot of their hands, as they find their way to one another...

4 - ...and clasp together.

5 - They both smile with their eyes closed.

PAGE 11

1 - Slowly, their heads turn towards one another, and they look into each other's eyes.

2 - Norm and Maggie exchange a long, tender kiss for a beat.

3 - They finish, and rest their heads on one another once more.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

4 - The bus pulls up to the side of the road and the door opens. Norm and Maggie step off, staring at one another the whole time, their hands locked together, and smiling.

NORM

So, you live close to here?

5 - Maggie points off panel.

MAGGIE

My house is just down the block.

NORM

You're kiddin'! I live, like three blocks from here.

6 - They begin walking.

MAGGIE

1 - Small world...

2 - So, you live in the uh...

NORM

The run down, crap-ass apartments, yeah.

MAGGIE

Well, at least you're honest.

NORM

About my crap hole of an apartment, with the leaky pipes, and rodents.

MAGGIE

(Revolted)

EEEEEW! HA! HA! HA!

PAGE 12

1 - They approach the door to the apartment complex.

NORM

This your place?

MAGGIE

Yes it is, and no, you may not come in.

NORM

Who's asking too?

2 - They pause, and smile at one another for a beat

3 - Then exchange a short kiss.

4 - Release. Still looking into one another, and smiling.



MAGGIE  
Had a good time...

NORM  
Likewise...

MAGGIE  
Do it again sometime? Maybe a real date?

NORM  
(Smiles)  
Cool beans!

5 - Maggie lightly bonks him on the head and giggles

MAGGIE  
Dork...

6 -  
NORM  
Mind if I call this weekend?

MAGGIE  
Got my number?

7 - Norm looks at his palm, then displays it to her, a number is written on it.

NORM  
Yup, the ink's starting to run, but I can still make it out.

MAGGIE  
(Giggles)  
Excellent...

8 - Maggie slowly begins walking to the door of her house.

MAGGIE  
Write that on paper...

NORM  
As soon as I get home.

PAGE 13

1 - Norm turns to walk off, as Maggie opens her front door.

MAGGIE  
Smell ya later...

NORM  
(Laughs)  
'Night.

2 - They smile at each other one last time, before going their separate ways.

3 - Shot of Maggie closing the door to her apartment, falling against the door and giving a satisfied sigh.

4 - Shot of Norm, walking down the street with his hands in his pockets, smiling contently.

PAGE 14

1 - Tight Shot: Maggie's face, looking angry, and spouting venomously.

CAPTION

Two weeks later...

MAGGIE

(Convicted and angry)

I *hate* Norman Raymer...

NORM (Narration)

Fuuuuuuck!

EXT. RAYMER APARTMENT > COMPLEX – DAY

2 - Norm (looking very distraught) and another young girl, (Faith) sitting on the stairs to the apartment complex, talking.

NORM

She actually used the term "hate"?

FAITH

That's the way I heard it.

3 – Norm panicking in frustration.

NORM

What the fuck? I'm not responsible for any of this shit!

FAITH

And this all started because you missed a birthday party?

4 - Flashback: Maggie sits alone, while a bunch of other kids are dancing at her birthday party. She looks a little bummed out.

NORM (Narration)

I was sick!

FAITH (Narration)

She said it like you were faking.

NORM (Narration)

I HAD AN INNER EAR INFECTION!!!

PAGE 15

1 - Flashback: A shot of Norm

NORM (Narration)  
I HAD AN INNER EAR INFECTION!!!

2 - Norm stumbling into his bedroom, and falling on his bed.

3 - Back to Norm and Faith talking.

NORM  
What else did she say?

FAITH  
Not much else that I was able to make out  
before she left the locker room. You weren't  
faking on her?

NORM  
No! I swear I wasn't trying to blow her off in  
any way, shape, or form!

4 - Faith pats him on the back, as Norm hangs his head.

NORM  
(Groans)  
Dammit! How could this have gone so wrong?

FAITH  
Just apologize. Tell her what you told me, I  
think things should be fine.

5 - Norm starts yelling, he's really mad.

NORM  
Nothing's fine. Nothing ever goes fine with  
this type of stuff... Christ, I was really  
starting to like Maggie.

6 - Faith fires right back at him.

FAITH  
Norman, will you listen and stop  
overreacting?!? All you need to do is give a  
simple explanation.

PAGE 16

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL > PARKING LOT - DAY

1 - Maggie sits against a brick wall reading a book. She appears to be  
waiting for someone or something.

2 - We quickly turn and find Norm, about a hundred feet away from her, watching her nervously.

3 - Norm takes a deep breath, steeling himself up for what he's about to do

4 - Back to Maggie sitting at the wall, she peers up as a shadow and a pair of legs move in close to her.

5 - Norm sits down next to her, but still a couple feet away.

6 - He quickly glances over at her...

7 - ...but then moves his eyes away.

8 - Maggie peers over at him, a little irritated.

9 - Then moves her attention back to the book.

NORM  
(Struggling)

Maggie?

10 - She turns her head to him, but stays silent, looking pretty rigid.

NORM  
Umm... Hey...

MAGGIE  
(Unflinching)

Hey...

PAGE 17

1 -She goes back to her reading, and Norm looks a little more freaked out. He's losing her.

NORM

1 - I'm uhhh...

2 - Well, I'm sorry about missing your party, I really wanted to come and all that stuff. I-I-I got sick, I came down with an inner ear infection, and I wouldn't have been good company.

3 -

(AlsoIhatetodance,andIknowhowmuchyousaidyoulikedancing andthatkindofstuff.)

4 - I should have been there, I know. I was a really terrible boyfriend and I've been agonizing over all this crap since I heard some one say that you said you hate me or something.

5 - Do you hate me?

2 - Maggie is frozen for a beat, her eyes are wide, and she's surprised.

3 - Norm starts to stand up, very embarrassed getting ready to just save face, and leave.

4 - Maggie bites her lip, and grabs his hand.

MAGGIE

Wait. Don't go!

5 - Norm looks back at her, hesitant.

6 - Maggie pats the ground next to her.

MAGGIE

Sit down.

7 - Norm sits back down, Maggie is now a bit on edge.

MAGGIE

Seriously, are you okay?

NORM

Seriously? I'm strung fuckin' out.

MAGGIE

I can see that.

PAGE 18

1 - Norm squints, sighs, and rubs his temples

NORM

Christ, I have such a headache...

2 - Maggie produces a bottle of pills from her purse.

MAGGIE

I've got some medicine for cramps, you can have some if you want.

3 - Norm takes two of the pills in his hand.

NORM

Am I going to grow boobs from this?

MAGGIE

(Giggles)

I think you'd be the first, it's just like aspirin for chicks...

4 - Norm swallows the pills as Maggie puts the bottle back in her purse.

MAGGIE

I don't hate you, Norm. Although I did say I did a couple days ago, and I've been wandering around thinking you stood me up.

NORM

I would never!

5 - Maggie shrugs.

MAGGIE

Well, I know that now. I'm sorry I said what I said. I didn't mean it, and God knows, I'm terribly capable of being a pretty heinous bitch, sometimes.

6 - Norm smiles. He's finally fixed things.

NORM

I'm okay with that. It's just a misunderstanding. No harm, no foul, right?

7 - Maggie smiles back.

MAGGIE

Right.

PAGE 19

1 - Maggie lets out a depressed sigh, as she reaches over and hugs Norm.

2 - He smiles and hugs her back tightly.

3 - Norm pulls away for a second and tries to kiss her.

4 - Maggie pulls back.

MAGGIE

Norm, I'm sorry, I can't...

PAGE 20

1 - Norm's face flushes with panic again.

NORM

What? Why?

MAGGIE

Nothing. It's just...

2 - Norm shouts, getting hysterical again.

NORM

Just what, Maggie?!?

3 - Maggie casts her eyes down to the ground.

MAGGIE

I'm with someone.

4 - Norm's eyes widen in heartbroken disappointment. He pulls away from her.

MAGGIE

I met him at the party. My friend brought him

to the party and when you didn't show up, I was – I was upset. I was pissed, because I thought you were faking sick to get away from me. He made the first move, he kissed me, and told me he wanted to be with me. He wanted to commit, and you didn't.

5 -

NORM

(Mad)

I never told you I didn't want to commit to you, nothing would have made me happier than to be with you.

MAGGIE

I'm so sorry. I really had you pegged as someone who didn't care.

PAGE 21

1 -

NORM

Well, now you know I do, so... What now?

MAGGIE

I don't know.

2 - Norm looks into her eyes, getting desperate now.

NORM

Would you be with me?

MAGGIE

(Sighs)

Norm, I can't. I told you that.

3 - Norm turns his head away from her; he looks like he's on the verge of crying. She touches his shoulder.

MAGGIE

Would you, maybe be comfortable with being friends for a while? Who knows, maybe things with Fred and I won't work out.

4 - Norm turns back to her, trying to smile.

NORM

(Weak chuckle)

Promise?

5 - She smiles back.

MAGGIE

No promises. I like you, Norm. You're a good guy, and if things hadn't worked out the way

they did, who knows what might have happened.

6 -

NORM

I'd rather not dwell right now.

MAGGIE

I understand, I shouldn't have said that.

PAGE 22:

1 - A beat passes. Maggie looks up, and notices a car has pulled up, and the person inside is waving to her.

MAGGIE

I gotta go, babe. You gonna be okay?

NORM

(Forces a smile)

I'll live.

2 - Maggie stands up, hoisting her bag to her shoulder, looking down to Norm.

MAGGIE

I'll call you soon, 'kay?

NORM

Sure thing...

3 - Maggie runs off screen.

4 - Norm's POV: Maggie gets into a car with a boy about their age, he leans over and kisses her cheek, but she's still looking directly at Norm.

5 - Norm lets out a deep sigh, and starts lightly banging the back of his head against the wall.

PAGE 23:

INT. BUS STATION > PARKING LOT - DAY

1 - Norm, Artie, and Chester walk out to their car. Norm looks tired, and still haggared. They all carry several large pieces of luggage.

ARTIE

(Opening the trunk)

You're looking good, kiddo. Are you feeling better?

NORM

Better than when I called you guys last night.

CHESTER

Well, your homecoming is already anticipated.



2 – Close up, Norm cocking his eyebrow.

NORM

Faith been knocking the door down since you told her?

3 – Chester opening the trunk of their car.

CHESTER

Maggie Gunther, actually. She called us a few weeks ago, saying she wanted to know when you'd be back.

4 – Artie begins hoisting Norm's bags into the trunk.

NORM

Hmmm... I talked to her a few weeks back, but we lost contact again after that, what with being too broke to pay phone bills.

CHESTER

We told her you'd call when we got home.

PAGE 24:

INT. "BACK IN THE DAY" > SCHOOL > HALLWAY - DAY

1 - Maggie is walking down the empty hallway, in the middle of a period. Her eye shadow has been running from crying all day, and she looks miserable.

CAPTION

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001

2 - On down the hall, Norm sits next to a door, reading a book.

3 - Maggie approaches him.

MAGGIE

(Off Camera)

Hey Norm...

4 - Norm looks up from his book, he's unnerved by Maggie's presence.

NORM

Uhh... Hey, Maggie. What are you doing in the hall?

5 - Norm looks closer at her face.

NORM

Have you been crying?

6 – Maggie covers her face. As Norm points up at her running makeup

MAGGIE  
Oh god, you can tell?

NORM  
Your eyeshadow...

7 – Maggie starts crying again, as Norm puts down his book, looking concerned.

MAGGIE  
Oh crap...

NORM  
You're a train wreck, what's wrong?

8 - Maggie sits down next to him.

MAGGIE  
I'm really fucking stupid, and I do stupid  
shit that I have to pay for later on... God,  
this sucks!

NORM  
Did Fred dump you?

PAGE 25:

1 - Maggie bites her lip and nods.

MAGGIE  
No, other way 'round... We went out and he  
bought us some beer, and when I asked to see  
his fake ID, I noticed it actually had his  
name on it...

2 – Norm looks confused.

NORM  
I don't get it...

3 – Maggie looks up at the ceiling as she stresses out what happened.

MAGGIE  
It wasn't fake... I was dating a twenty-five  
year old! A twenty-five year old came to my  
birthday party, and I've been making out with  
a fucking twenty-five year old for a week!

4 - Norm wraps his arms around her and holds her close as she cries. The look in his eyes is silently content.

MAGGIE  
1 – He ditched me in the park, and I had to  
wait an hour for my mom to come pick me up!

2 - I need a hug and a cigarette...

5 - They both sit back against the wall for a beat, Maggie mopes, and Norm is just there for her.

MAGGIE

Do you ever think about the type of person  
you'd like to marry when you get older?

PAGE 26:

1 - Norm smirks.

NORM

A few times, actually. When I was thirteen, it  
was Rogue from the X-Men. Fourteen, was Alanis  
Morrisette, last year it was a tie between my  
first girlfriend, and the girl who played  
Rogue in the X-Men movie.

2 - Maggie elbows him in the arm, playfully.

MAGGIE

Very funny...

NORM

I guess it's more of a guy thing.

3 - They both chuckle, as Norm rubs his arm.

MAGGIE

Not really, I've had a thing for Johnny Depp  
for years.

NORM

Yeah, you and every other woman on earth.  
That's standard, like Brad Pitt or some shit.

4 - Maggie looks at him, biting her lip, hopeful.

MAGGIE

(Awkward)

What do you think about me?

NORM

(Smiles)

I think you already know what I think about  
you.

MAGGIE

No, I mean, do you think that maybe I'm that  
type of girl to you?

5 - Norm looks a bit off put.

NORM

Are you asking me...?

MAGGIE

No, I'm wondering... Life is short, I just wanna know.

NORM

Well, I really don't know how to answer that. I mean, I'm not that old, I haven't thought about it.

6 – Different angle.

MAGGIE

You said you did with your first girl.

NORM

Well, I was fifteen at the time.

MAGGIE

Don't get me wrong, I'm not looking to get hitched or anything. I just wanna know if it's possible...

PAGE 27:

1 – Maggie looks at him, silent.

2 - Maggie leans in, and kisses Norm on the neck. Norm suspects something is up.

NORM

Maggie, are you on something?

3 – Maggie lays her head on his shoulder.

MAGGIE

I had a joint out in my car.

NORM

I thought that was what I smelled.

4 – Playing with Norm's hair, smiling.

MAGGIE

You never answered my queeeeeestiiiiion...

NORM

I think you should ask me again when you've come down.

5 – Maggie hugs Norm.

MAGGIE

I don't ever wanna come down... Being straight is too depressing. I wanna stay right here,

and snuggle up with you.

6 - Norm smiles, and they sit together, contently.

MAGGIE

Norm?

NORM

Yeah?

MAGGIE

You gonna kiss me?

NORM

1 - I'm thinking about it...

2 - You think you'll remember it?

PAGE 28:

1 - Maggie turns her head, and nibbles Norm's ear.

2 - Norm turns to her, and they lock eyes again.

3 - The magic from the first time on the bus is still there, slowly building up to the moment that their lips touch. It's more innocent than before.

4 - Zoom out, they continue.

5 - Pulling away, they smile at each other and sit back, very content. Holding hands again.

NORM

Maggie?

ARTIE

Yeah, Norm?

ARTIE

Are we together again?

MAGGIE

(Sighs happily)

Uh huh...

NORM

(Smiles)

Good, just checking...

PAGE 29:

1 - A beat.

NORM

You have plans tonight?

MAGGIE  
I did yesterday...

NORM  
Think you might be up for something tonight?

MAGGIE  
Like...?

2 – Close up: Norm looking down at the ground, grinning.

NORM  
A date...

3 – Maggie smiles at him

MAGGIE  
Real date?

4 – Norm looks up, and grins at her.

NORM  
Or maybe we can go to the library and smooch  
some more.

5 – Maggie rolls her eyes.

MAGGIE  
I'd prefer a date. Books are for school.

6 – Norm.

NORM  
Dinner and a movie?

7 – Maggie.

MAGGIE  
How about a picnic in the park?

8 – Norm.

NORM  
Even better.

9 – Maggie.

MAGGIE  
Let's leave...

10 – Norm.

NORM  
Right now?

11 – Maggie.

MAGGIE

Yeah, lets spend the whole day in the park together, just you and me.

12 – Norm looks wry, although he’s aching to do it.

PAGE 30:

INT. RAYMER APARTMENT > LIVING ROOM - DAY

1 - Close upshot of the front door as it opens, and Norm peeks his head in, looking suspicious.

NORM

The coast is clear...

2 - Norm and Maggie enter.

NORM

I’m sure we have some good junk in the kitchen for a picnic. My folks aren’t around.

MAGGIE

Cool beans!

NORM

You say “cool beans”?

3 - Norm and Maggie make their way to the kitchen, where Norm opens the pantry.

NORM

If you see anything you like that won’t take much preparation, feel free. I’m gonna go get a picnic basket and a blanket. I think there’s a bucket of left over chicken from two nights ago, and if you’re into Japanese, my folks and I brought some home last night.

MAGGIE

It’s not sushi, is it?

NORM

Some...

MAGGIE

(Repulsed)

Bleck! That’s so gross.

NORM

Only until you try it. I’ll be back.

4 - Norm exits.

5 - Maggie goes through the cabinets, pulling out a few things. Potato chips, cookies, apples.

6 - Then she moves on the fridge. Before she opens it, she notices a picture up on the door.

7 - It shows Artie and Chester on vacation, kissing each other. Maggie looks a little unnerved.

8 - Norm reenters with the basket and blanket.

9 - Maggie quickly opens the fridge, pretending not to be freaked out.

PAGE 31:

1 - Norm.

NORM

Need some help?

2 - Maggie quickly pulls out the chicken bucket.

MAGGIE

Drinks?

NORM

I think we're out. We can stop at a gas station.

MAGGIE

O-okay...

3 - Norm notices Maggie looking nervous.

NORM

You alright?

MAGGIE

We'll talk about it in a few. Where do your folks keep the beer?

4 - Norm, stern.

NORM

No beer.

5 - Maggie, crushed.

MAGGIE

Oh...

6 - Norm puts the chicken in the basket.

NORM

We don't drink, my dad used to have a drinking



problem, and I'm not too fond of alcohol.

MAGGIE

Oh...

7 - Norm walks over, and kisses Maggie.

NORM

Look, we gotta split before they get home and  
freak out over having a girl in the house.

MAGGIE  
(Smiles)

Ah, say no more...

PAGE 32:

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Splash - Norm and Maggie sit underneath a large tree. Maggie sits between  
Norm's legs, resting her back on his chest, as he holds her. The picnic food  
is strewn around the blanket, and it looks to have been well eaten.

NORM

You know what?

MAGGIE

Hmm?

NORM  
(Chuckles)

I have no idea...

MAGGIE

Hehehe...

NORM

I'm just liking this. I'm liking this a whole  
lot.

PAGE 33:

1 - Maggie takes a sip of her drink and offers it to Norm.

MAGGIE

Want some?

2 - Norm takes a long drink and Maggie pulls it away.

MAGGIE

I said "some", not "all", goober!

3 - Norm kisses her forehead.

4 - A beat passes.

MAGGIE  
I've got a question. It might seem dumb.

NORM  
Shoot...

MAGGIE  
When we were at your place, I saw a picture on  
your refrigerator.

NORM  
Two guys?

MAGGIE  
Kissing... Yeah, that's the one. What's that all  
about?

5 - Norm, deep breath.

NORM  
(Deep breath)  
Well... Those are my folks.

6 - Maggie turns and looks at him in disbelief.

MAGGIE  
Sorry if I seem a bit freaked... I just... it's  
weird.

NORM  
Well, it's okay, fortunately I've had years to  
get used to it.

PAGE 34:

1 - Maggie.

MAGGIE  
So what? Are you like, adopted?

2 - Norm.

NORM  
Nope. It's a long story. I don't know the  
specifics, but Chester and Artie had an old  
female friend that they both got involved with  
for a time. She was my mother. She died giving  
birth to me, and that's pretty much how it  
happened.

3 - Maggie leans back on his chest again, frowning, as Norm points off panel.

MAGGIE  
Shit... That's pretty heavy.

NORM

Yeah, I try not to think about it too much,  
otherwise, I'd just be like that sad bastard  
over there.

4 - A heavy set guy, sitting on a bench, dressed like Robert Smith from The Cure. (Black clothes, make up, black nail polish, etc.) As the fat clown sits, weeping over an acoustic guitar, as on-lookers pass him by.

MAGGIE

You're terrible!

NORM

What? He's the one who sucks!

5 - Maggie prepares to get up.

MAGGIE

I'm gonna go tell him you said that.

6 - Norm looks into her eyes, serious.

NORM

I'm sorry, but if you have to just sit there  
all the time, singing and talking about how  
great it would be to die, I think you're  
pretty mental. But hey, that's just my humble  
opinion.

PAGE 35:

1 - Maggie turns, sitting on the blanket, looking at him.

MAGGIE

No sympathy for the depressed, huh?

NORM

I never said that, I have loads of sympathy  
for the depressed, I get depressed just like  
everyone else, but if a problem comes along, I  
fucking deal with it. I just think that no  
matter how bad a person has it, it's nothing  
to kill yourself over. I find that most people  
who act like that are either, A) doing it for  
attention, or B) for the more serious ones,  
just giving up too easily.

MAGGIE

Maybe some people just aren't as strong as you  
see yourself.

2 -

NORM

Maybe... I just don't see the point in wanting  
to end it all without putting up a fight. Find  
the happiness where you can, in even the

smallest thing, y'know?

MAGGIE

What if you're terminal, and in a lot of pain?

3 - Norm throws up his hands, getting a little heated by this conversation.

NORM

That's different, I'm talking about all the mopey fuck teenagers who think life is just meaningless. It's just stupid.

MAGGIE

Okay, different subject.

NORM

Sorry...

4 - They sit for a beat, and look out at the sky.

NORM

How could anyone want to die on a day like today?

MAGGIE

(Smiles)

I have no idea...

PAGE 36:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX > PARKING LOT - DAY

1 - Faith sits out on the steps, listening to music on a pair of headphones.

2 - She looks up, to see Norm enter, his hands are shoved in his pockets, and he's grinning widely.

FAITH

(Calling out)

Hey!

NORM

(Looking up at her)

Howdy! What's up?

3 - Faith takes off her headphones.

FAITH

Waiting on you. I couldn't find you at school all day, and then I came over here after it let out, only to find you weren't here either. What gives?

4 - Norm smirks.

NORM

I skipped out.

5 – Faith.

FAITH

No shit, Sherlock! Why didn't you bring me with?

6 - Norm, still smirking.

NORM

Cuz', (and no offense) I was with someone a bit more cuddly, and it was kind of a private occasion.

7 – Faith looks aghast.

FAITH

Who?

NORM

(Smiling smugly)

Maggie Gunther...

FAITH

No shit?

NORM

No shit.

8 – Norm takes a seat next to her.

FAITH

I thought you said she was attached.

NORM

Yeah, to me!

PAGE 37:

1 –

FAITH

How'd you get so hilarious, Norman? I wanna know. What happened to Fred?

NORM

I put him in my mouth and ate him.

FAITH

Eww! Following in the footsteps of your folks?

2 – Norm gets defensive.

NORM

Watch yourself! I'm in a very good mood!

FAITH

What about Fred?

NORM

What about him? I don't give a shit, and neither should you. It doesn't concern us, right?

FAITH

I guess not.

3 – Norm smiles, happy.

NORM

All I care about is the fact that she and I are together again.

FAITH

So, what did you and the moody Ms. Gunther do, today?

NORM

Moody? You wouldn't be jealous in any way, would you?

4 – Faith scoffs.

FAITH

Of her? Of course not! She and I just don't get along.

NORM

You don't get along with anyone.

FAITH  
(Huffs)

Shit... You're right.

PAGE 38:

INT. GUNTHER HOME > MAGGIE'S ROOM - DAY

1 - Maggie is now in her pajamas, sitting on her bed, strumming a guitar, and smoking a cigarette.

CAPTION

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2001

2 - Maggie strikes a bad chord, stops playing for a second, and begins tuning the guitar.

3 - Maggie begins playing and singing again.

- 4 - Maggie begins playing and singing again.  
5 - Suddenly, the telephone rings.  
6 - Maggie quits playing, and runs for the phone.

MAGGIE  
Hello?

NORM  
(Over phone)  
Hey Maggie!

MAGGIE  
NORMIE! What's up?

NORM  
Just checking to see if you made it home okay.

MAGGIE  
Well, now you know.

- 7 - Maggie walks over to her bed, and sits down with the phone.

NORM  
You busy?

MAGGIE  
Doing a little writing, but nothing I couldn't  
put down for you.

PAGE 39:

- 1 - Maggie lays down on her bed, writing, while on the phone.

NORM  
Cool, just wanted to chat a little before I  
sack out. What are you writing?

MAGGIE  
Music.

NORM  
Oh, far out, you play any instruments?

- 2 - Maggie smiles.

MAGGIE  
I play guitar, and I sing. I can even tap  
dance if I feel like it.

NORM  
That's cute, I would like to see that. Can I  
hear you play whatever you've written?

MAGGIE  
Nope, I'm shy about singing the stuff I write  
to people. I can sing you something else.

3 – Maggie walks over to her guitar.

NORM  
Freebird?

MAGGIE  
Sorry, no Skynard.

4 – Maggie sits down, picking up her guitar.

NORM  
Well, I dunno, surprise me.

MAGGIE  
Okay, I'm gonna put the phone down so I can  
play. You ready?

NORM  
Sure thing. Hit me, hot mama!

MAGGIE  
(Laughs)  
Okay, hang on...

5 - Maggie sets down the phone

PAGE 40:

Splash - She plays.

PAGE 41:

Raymer Apartment > Norm's Bedroom

1 - Norm on the phone, reacting to Maggie as she plays.

Gunther Home > Maggie's Room

2 - She finishes playing, and picks up the phone to the sound of clapping.

MAGGIE  
Enjoy?

NORM  
I'm floored. I had no idea you were beautiful  
and talented.

3 - Maggie's eyes widen at the complement, she turns red and smiles.

MAGGIE  
(Smiles)



You used the "B" word.

NORM

Are you blushing?

MAGGIE

Yes I am.

NORM

Mission accomplished.

MAGGIE  
(Giggling)

Stop it!

4 - Maggie lights up a cigarette, and starts smoking.

NORM

So, doing anything tomorrow?

MAGGIE

Not a thing, dear. You?

NORM

If you know me, you know I never have a damned thing to do on weekends. Wanna hang?

MAGGIE

I could think of worse things to do. Got something in mind?

PAGE 42:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - NIGHT

1 - A loud crashing sound as a bowling ball knocks down a single pin on the left side of a bowling lane.

2 - Norm steps down from taking his shot, he slumps at the sight of the piss-poor shot he just took, and walks back to the bench, where Maggie sits, clapping, trying to cheer him up.

MAGGIE  
(Clapping)

Yaaaaay!

NORM

I never was good at this game.

3 - Maggie, smiling to cheer him up.

MAGGIE

Hey, I'm not that much of a sportsman either, but I find it easier to just shut my eyes, and chuck the ball, most of the time, I can knock down at least one.

4 - Maggie grabs her ball and steps up to the line.

MAGGIE

Observe...

5 - Maggie shuts her eyes and prepares to throw.

6 - Norm's POV: He's staring at her butt.

7 - Maggie chucks the ball down the lane.

8 - The ball rolls a ways then veers off into the gutter.

9 - Maggie has opened her eyes, and shuffles back to the bench, pecking Norm on the cheek.

10 - Norm kisses her back, as he stands and grabs his ball.

NORM

(Staring down the lane, contemplating)  
This is weird...

PAGE 43:

1 - Norm throws the ball.

MAGGIE

What is?

NORM

We're both so utterly horrible at this game,  
and yet, we've played three full, suck-tastic  
games of it.

MAGGIE

Who cares if we suck? Are you not having fun?

2 - ...and hits four pins.

3 - Norm turns to her, smiling.

NORM

(Turning and smiling at her)  
Of course I am!

4 - Maggie smiles back.

MAGGIE

(Smiles back)

Then don't bitch.

5 - Maggie picks up her ball, as it rolls out of the retrieval machine.

NORM

It's just... We're putting down money to play  
it.

MAGGIE  
Well, yeah! The alley has to have money to  
stay open. That's how capitalism works.

NORM  
  
I find it funny that you actually listen in  
sociology.

6 - Norm chuckles, as he goes for his second shot

MAGGIE  
Hey, that's my favorite class of the day!

NORM  
(Chuckles)  
People think I'm a weirdo!

7 - Norm takes his shot, and actually picks up a spare.

8 - Norm, looking surprised, but trying to play it cool.

NORM  
(Coolly)  
Huh... How 'bout that!

9 - Maggie grabs her ball.

MAGGIE  
  
See, it's not so bad once you warm up to it.

PAGE 44:

1 - Maggie closes her eyes again.

2 - Maggie swings her arm back to take her shot.

3 - But this time, something is wrong with her step. The force of the ball  
pulling her arm pulls the rest of her body back...

4 - ...and she falls flat on her butt.

5 - Maggie's ball rolls to Norm's feet. He's trying like hell to hold back  
laughter.

NORM  
(Snickers)  
  
Are you okay?

6 - Maggie sits stunned for a second, her mouth gapping open

MAGGIE  
(Embarrassed)

Oh... My... God!!!

6 - Maggie says nothing, her face is red with embarrassment, and she stands and starts walking away.

NORM  
(Calling out)

Maggie?

7 - Maggie picks herself up, and begins running to the women's bathroom, and Norm stops in his tracks for a beat. He then begins laughing uncontrollably.

PAGE 45:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY > WOMEN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

1 - Maggie enters, beet-red in the face, and advances to the mirror. Half-sobbing, half-giggling at herself.

2 & 3 - She turns on the faucet, and splashes some cold water on her face.

MAGGIE  
(Sniffs)

Oh God...

4 - Suddenly, we hear a voice, yelling through the bathroom door.

NORM  
(Off Camera)

Maggie?

MAGGIE  
(Calling back)

Yeah?

5 - Norm stands directly outside the door to the Women's bathroom, back up against the wall, arms folded.

NORM  
You doing okay in there?

MAGGIE  
(Through the door)  
Yeah, I'm fine...

NORM  
Are you hurt? Should I send someone in?

6 - Maggie rubs the sore spot on her butt, and walks over to the door, talking through it.

MAGGIE  
I think the only thing bruised is my ego, more than my butt... I swear I could just die, right now!

NORM

You gonna come out?

7 – Maggie has a seat on the bathroom floor, next to the door.

MAGGIE

I don't wanna... I think I might just sit on the floor for a few.

8 – Norm looks at the door.

NORM

Oh, come on. It wasn't that bad... So you fell down! You did it with style.

PAGE 46:

1 – Maggie reapplies her makeup.

MAGGIE

Oh, don't patronize me, Norm. Come on!

2 – Norm.

NORM

Look Maggie, I don't care that you fell on your butt.

MAGGIE

It's embarrassing!

MAGGIE

Look, will you just...

3 - Norm pauses as a person passes by and looks at him weird for sitting outside the bathroom. Norm glares back at him, as if to say "Oh, fuck off, will you?"

4 – Norm getting frustrated

NORM

...Just come out, and we can leave, and maybe do something else. Okay?

5 - Maggie, sitting on the floor of the bathroom, smiling.

MAGGIE

You wanna go out to eat?

NORM

Sure, anything! I'll even pay!

6 - Maggie smiles for a beat, before standing up and opening the door.

7 - Norm stands beside the door, waiting as it swings open, and Maggie comes out. Her face is still a bit red, but she's smiling nonetheless.

8 - She turns to Norm, pressing against him, and they kiss for a beat.

MAGGIE

(Smiles shyly)

That... That was humiliating...

To be continued...